CATALOGUE

OF A

COLLECTION

OF

GERMANIC ANTIQUITIES

BELONGING TO

J. PIERPONT MORGAN

COMPILED BY

SEYMOUR DE RICCI

PARIS

—

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N° 118

PREFACE

To the brilliant array of Frankish jewels illustrated in the *Catalogue of a collection of Merovingian antiquities belonging to J. Pierpont Morgan* only one fault could be found by the exacting student : the absence of definite provenances for many of the items. The main object of the collector in acquiring the antiquities now described has been to complete his collections by bringing together in one room a large series of contemporaneous objects from a single burial-field. The possibility of such an important addition to the Baron collection of jewels was too tempting to be overlooked and the Queckenberg collection of Niederbreisig gave an excellent opportunity to complete a beautiful series of precious objects by a large collection of unquestionable scientific importance.

Niederbreisig is a small village on the western bank of the Rhine, between Coblenz and Bonn, not far from Ahrweiler; it had been known for half a century as a finding-place of Roman antiquities (*Bonner Jahrbücher* VII, 43-44; XXVI, 154; XXXI, 71; LXIII, 4-5; LXXXI, 2). But it is only about ten years ago that the local post-master Queckenberg excavated there a large Frankish cemetery. After his death (1909) the collection he had formed was offered for sale to several German Museums and was recently purchased by Mr J. Pierpont Morgan.

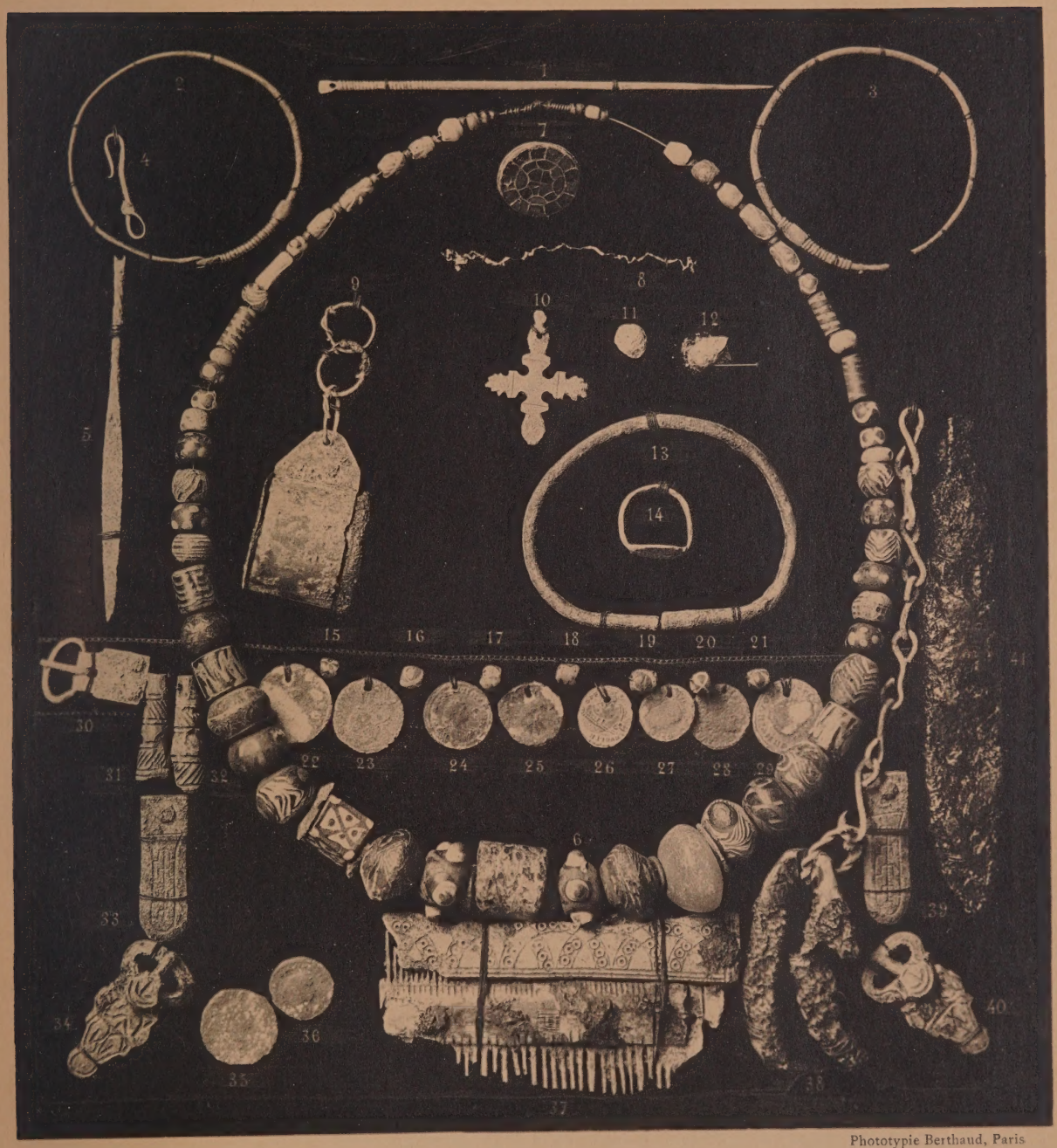
The whole contents of Frankish tombs, male and female, are illustrated in the accompanying plates and shortly described in the following pages. Hairpins and ear-rings, paste necklaces and precious fibulae, armlets and finger-

rings, iron belt-buckles inlaid with delicate gold and silver niello, bone hair-combs, bronze châtelaine-plaques, iron scissors and knives, innumerable small bronze ferrets and fittings from the shoes, belts and leggings, studs and buckles of every description, or to put it shortly, every portion of the male and female attire in which metal, stone or terra-cotta was made use of.

The present catalogue could easily have been made three times as long, with cuttings from Lindenschmit's excellent *Handbuch der deutschen Alterthumskunde* (vol. I, Braunschweig, 1880-1889). But what is the use of repeating what has been most excellently stated elsewhere? A photograph is the best of all descriptions. I trust that the thirty-two plates inserted in this brief notice, although on a small scale, will prove of use to the American student and entice him to read up the copious German and French literature describing the Frankish burial-fields of the Rhenan provinces.

SEYMOUR DE RICCI.

Paris, July 1910.



Phototypie Berthaud, Paris

PLATE I

1. A bronze hairpin with a hole at top; partly decorated with a plain incised spiral.

2-3. A pair of large plain bronze ear-rings closing with a loop and hook.

4. A plain bronze ear-ring to which was probably attached a pendant.

5. A long flat bronze needle; the eye is broken.

6. A necklace of 77 paste beads of various shapes and colours.

7. A circular flat cloisonné bronze and iron fibula, set with 25 pieces of transparent red paste.

8. A piece of flattened gold wire.

9. A cylindrical bronze box suspended to three rings and probably hung round the neck. In the box are two coins.

1°. — IMPCAVRELIANVSAVG. Radiated and cuirassed bust to right.

R.— ORIENSAVG. The Sun marching to left, between two human-headed uraei, Below DXXT.

Small brass.

2°. — CONSTANTINVSIVNNOBC. Bust to right.

R. — CCOR.... Two soldiers standing. Below TRS.

Small brass, pierced with a hole.

10. A flat bronze ornamental cross with a small hole at top. Possibly hung to the neck.

11-12. Two cherry-stones, from a tomb.

13. A thick bronze armlet.

14. A plain bronze ring with a flat bezzle on which is incised the chrism (X and P combined).

15-21. Seven small paste beads.

22. A very indistinct late Roman small-brass, pierced with a hole.

23. Another, apparently of the fourth century.

24. Another, bearing the head of one of Constantine's sons.

25. Another, probably of Victorinus or Tetricus (about 270 A. D.)

26. Another, of Valens.

DNVALEN SPFAVG. Bust to right.
R. — SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE. Victory to left. Below TRS*.

27. Another, of one of the sons of Constantine.

28. Another, very indistinct.

29. Another, of Constantine, in poor condition.

30. A small bronze buckle, with a double square plaque and oval loop.

31-32. Two small tapering bone cylinders roughly decorated with incised parallel lines.

33 and 39. A pair of bronze ferrets, from the fittings of a waistband, decorated with an incised pattern.

34 and 40. A pair of small bronze buckles, decorated with an incised pattern and evidently from the same waistband as the two ferrets described above (n. 33, 39).

35. A very indistinct late Roman small brass.

36. An indistinct Roman small brass (Perhaps a debased *Antoninianus* of Caracalla ?)

37. A double-edged bone comb, with part of its sheath decorated with incised curves and dotted circles.

38. Eight links of a bronze chain to which is attached a broken seashell.

39-40. Cf. nn. 33-34.

41. An iron knife or dagger still cased in a sheath of which some portions subsist.

PLATE II

42. A bronze hairpin with a flattened spatulated head and incised ornaments.

43-44. A pair of plain bronze ear-rings (broken) closing with a loop and hook.

45. A handsome necklace of 63 beads, chiefly paste, o various shapes, sizes and colours; one of them is apparently an amethyst.

46. A flat circular brooch consisting of a bracteate cast on a large brass coin of the Emperor Domitian.

47. A plain massive annular finger-ring in yellow glass. Possibly a spindle-whorl.

48. A flat circular bronze fibula with a serrated rim and a cloisonné inlay of six pieces of red paste radiating round a central paste stud.

49. An iron buckle with an oval plaque, inlaid with gold.

50. A plain bronze armlet.

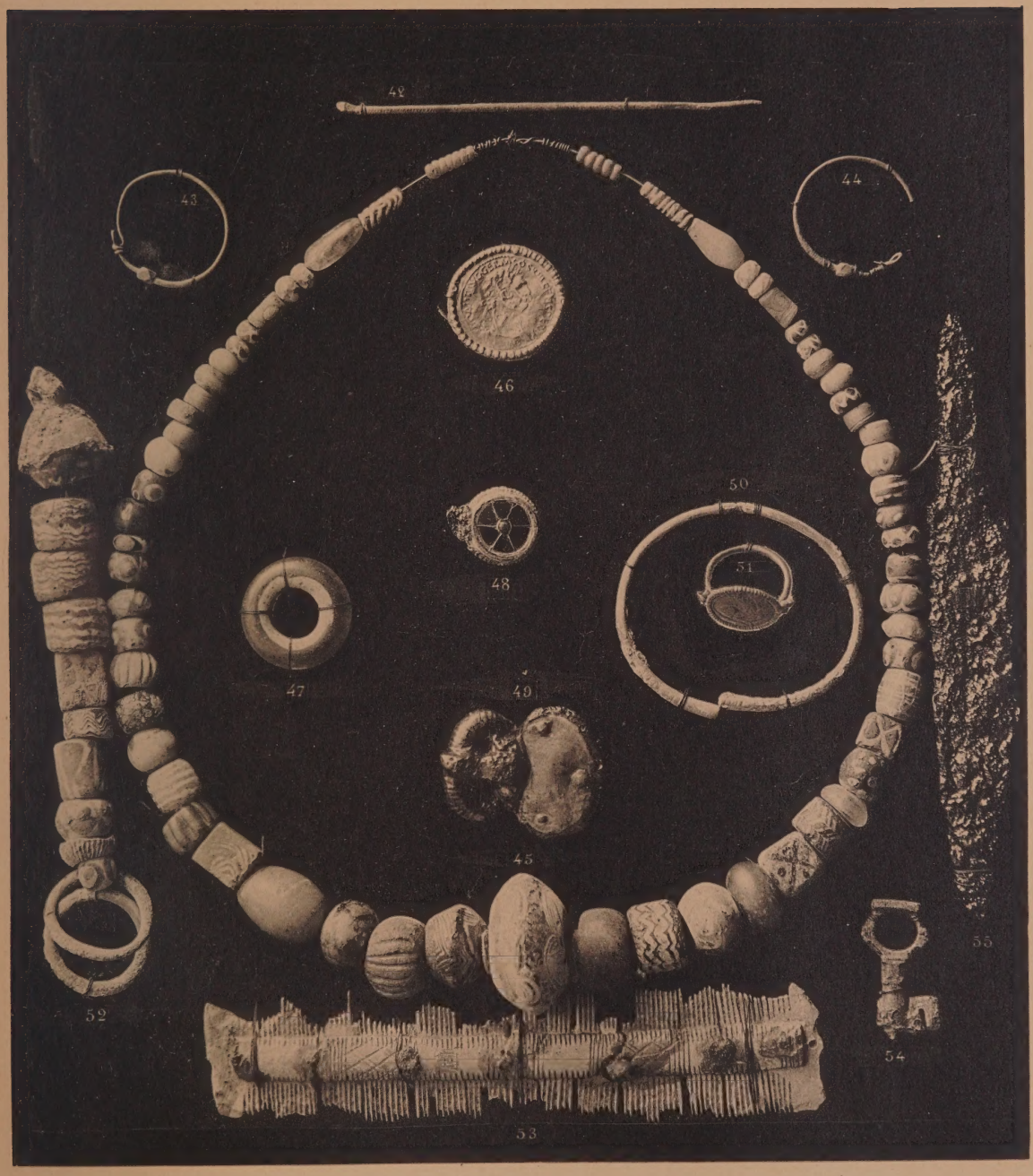
51. A silver ring with a flat circular bezzle, bearing in very low relief a conventional fantastical beast, apparently a kind of dragon.

52. A composite pendant consisting of two bronze rings and a row of ten large paste beads, terminating with a conical bronze cap.

53. A long double-edged bone comb scored with parallel and diagonal incised lines.

54. A small bronze key.

55. The blade of an iron knife or dagger.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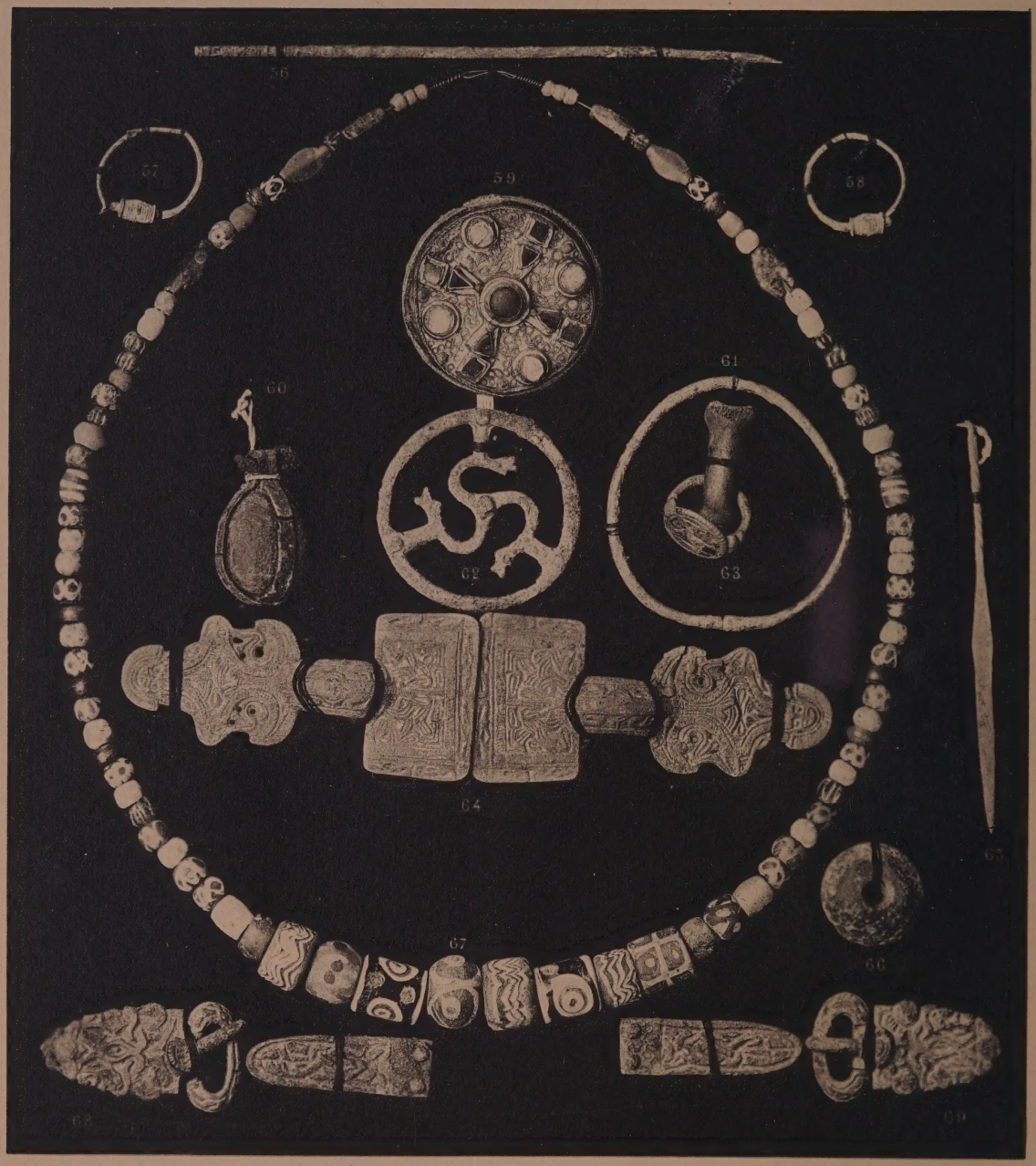
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PLATE III

56. A bronze hairpin with a series of annular ornaments round the top.

57-58. A pair of bronze ear-rings with a plain hoop, terminating in a barrel-shaped ornament.

59. A large (Diameter 0m057) and handsome circular bronze fibula cased with gold, set with nine pieces of red and green paste, forming a Maltese cross, and with four round pearls. The background is covered with laid-on ornaments in gold wire.

60. An oval pebble cased in two bronze cross-bands, forming a kind of pendant.

61. A plain bronze armlet.

62. A plain openwork bronze châtelaine-plaque in the shape of a *triskelos* surrounded by a circle.

63. A bronze finger-ring, formerly silvered, with a flat circular bezzle on which is roughly incised a standing figure, probably copied from a third century Roman coin. The finger-bone on which this ring was found has been preserved with the ring.

64. A pair of large T-shaped openwork fibulae in gilt bronze with incised patterns of interlaced lines.

65. A flat iron needle attached to a ring, formerly suspended to a châtelaine.

66. A double-conic spindle-whorl, pierced with a hole. Cf. n. 47.

67. A necklace of 87 paste beads, of various sizes, shapes and colours.

68-69. A pair of small bronze buckles, with their ferrets, decorated with incised ornaments.

PLATE IV

70. Bronze coated with gold. A large flat circular fibula (Diameter 0m,044) with a central umbo studded with a Maltese cross in opal and red paste, surrounded by eight bosses alternately square and round, two being pearls, two blue paste and four emeralds. The background is decorated with laid-on ornaments in gold wire.

71. A silver ring with a flat bezzle on which is incised a monogram. The finger-bone has been preserved with the ring.

72-73. Two large T-shaped fibulae in gilt bronze with incised patterns showing grecques, spirals and interlaced lines.

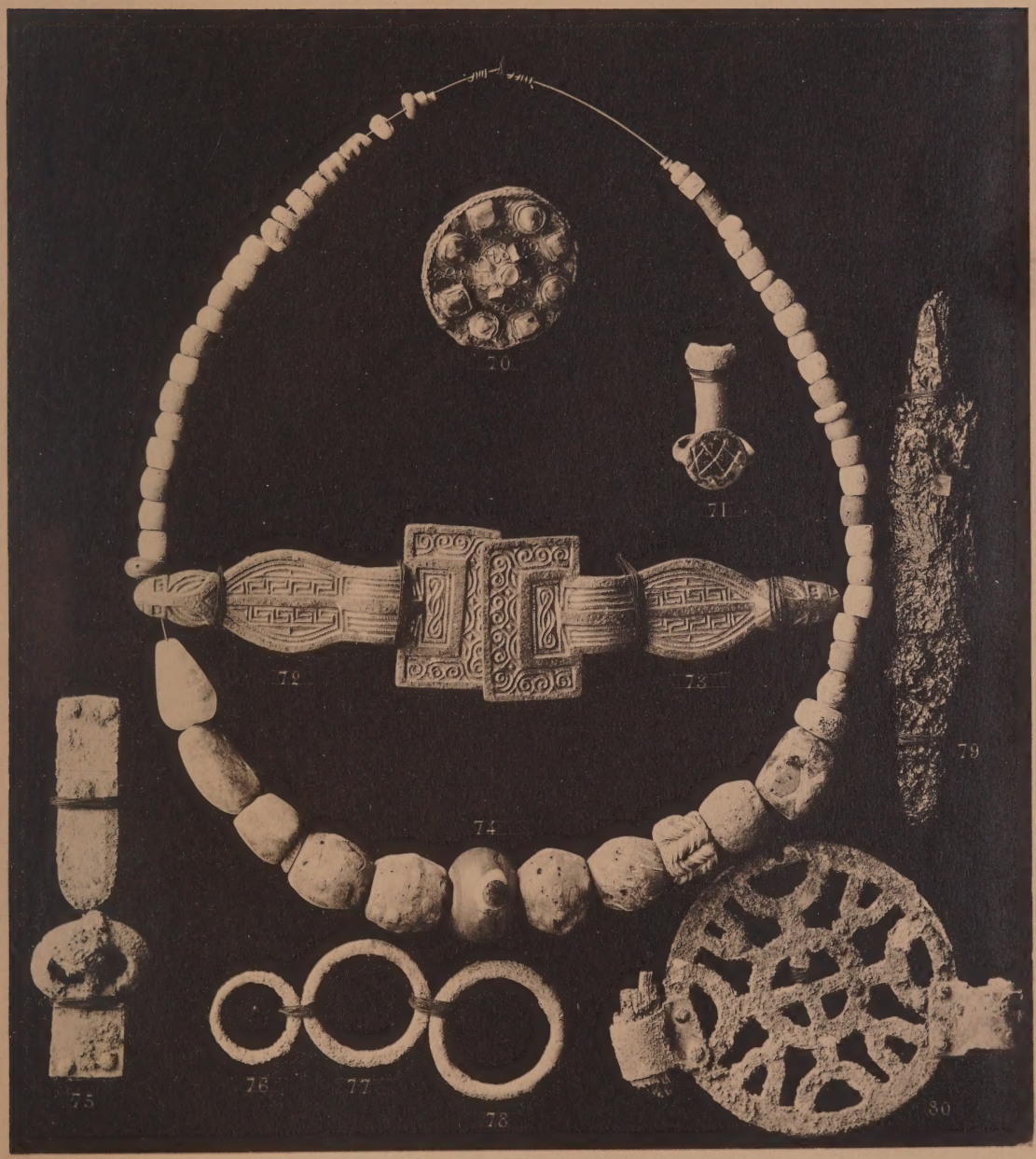
74. A large necklace of 60 beads chiefly paste, of various shapes, sizes and colours. One bead is a pale amethyst.

75. A small bronze buckle with its ferret.

76-77-78. Three plain bronze rings of increasing size, probably from a châtelaine.

79. An iron knife or dagger.

80. A circular openwork bronze châtelaine-plaque on to which have been riveted two annular swivels through which are still passed fragments of wooden handles.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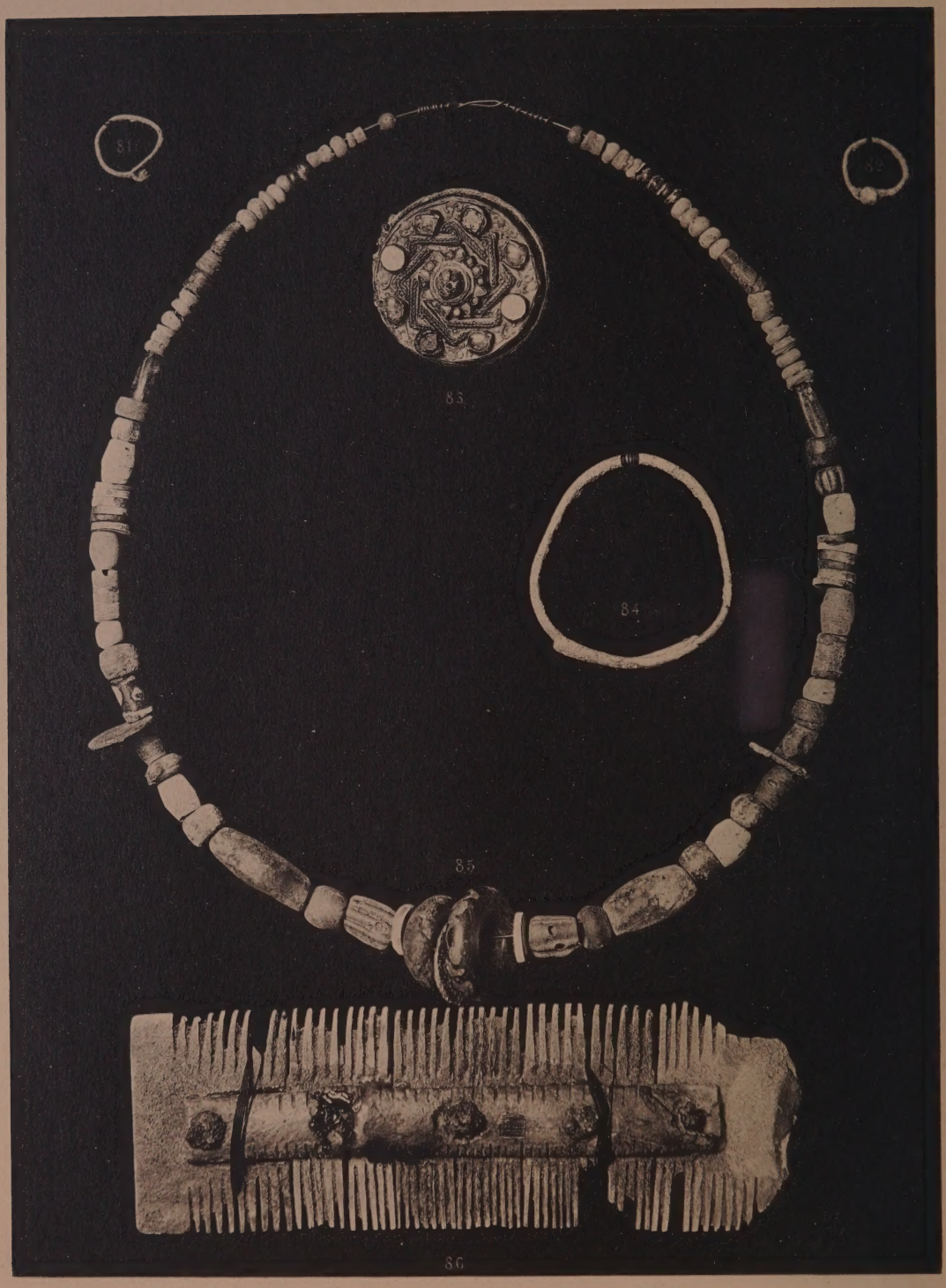
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PLATE V

81-82. A pair of small plain bronze ear-rings terminating in a knob.

83. Bronze coated with gold. A fine flat circular fibula with a central umbo in the shape of a conventional flower inlaid with many-coloured pieces of paste and surrounded by eight bosses also inlaid with paste. The background is covered with an elegant interlaced pattern in laid-on plaited gold cord.

84. A plain bronze armlet.

85. A necklace of about 80 paste beads of various shapes, sizes and colours. Three illegible bronze coins are strung on the necklace.

86. A large flat double-edged comb in excellent preservation.

PLATE VI

87. A long bronze hairpin with a central knob and a flat spatulated head.

88-89. Two small bronze ear-rings, terminating in a knob.

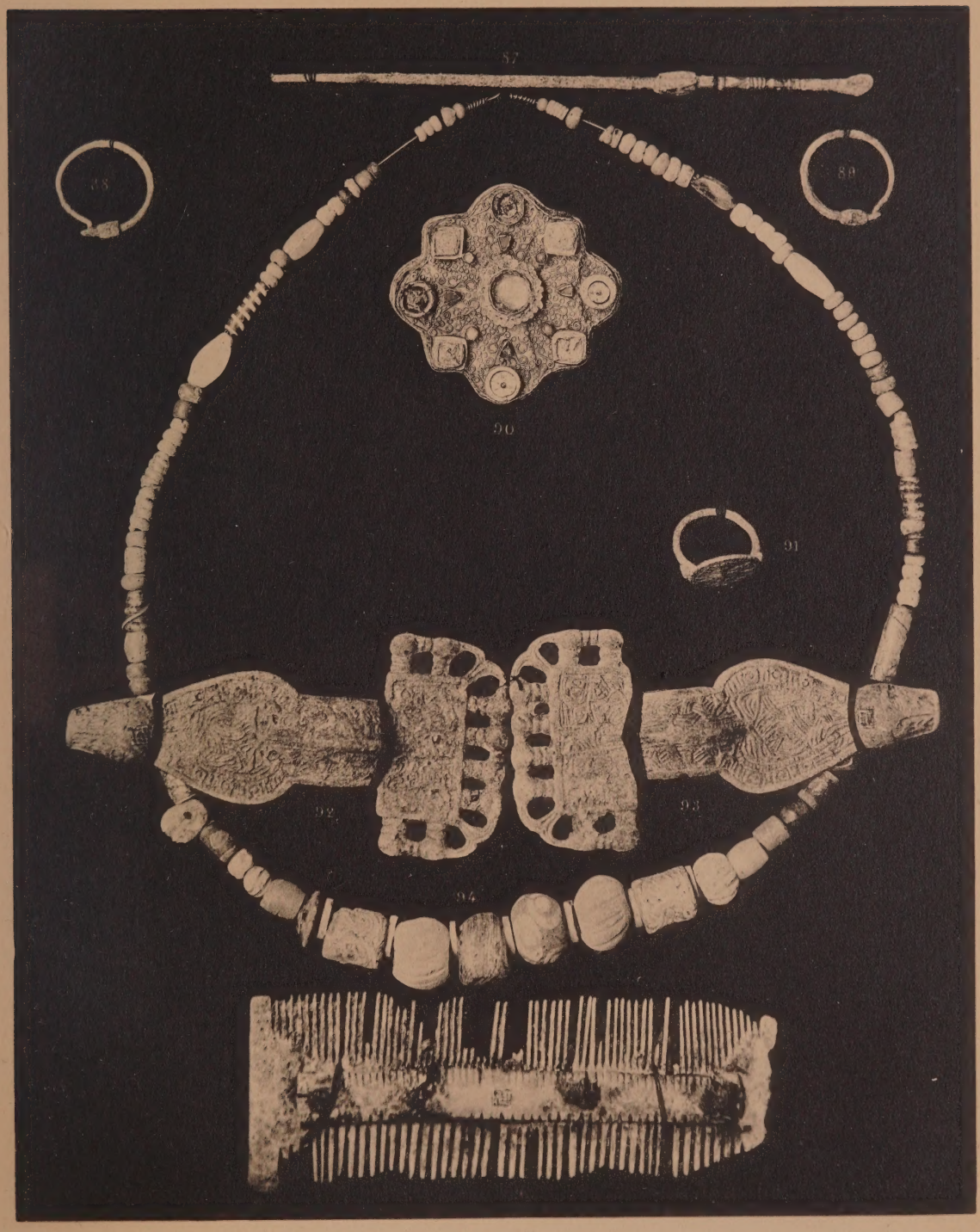
90. Bronze coated with gold. A large rosette-shaped fibula with a central umbo, eight bosses round the rim and eight smaller bosses round the centre, all studded with round, square or triangular pieces of paste. Background decorated with a network of small laid-on ornaments in gold wire.

91. A silver (?) finger-ring with a flat bezzle on which is rudely incised a standing figure.

92-93. A pair of openwork T-shaped bronze fibulae, covered with incised patterns, chiefly consisting in parallel lines.

94. A necklace of over 80 paste beads of various sizes, shapes and colours.

95. A double-edged bone comb of the usual shape.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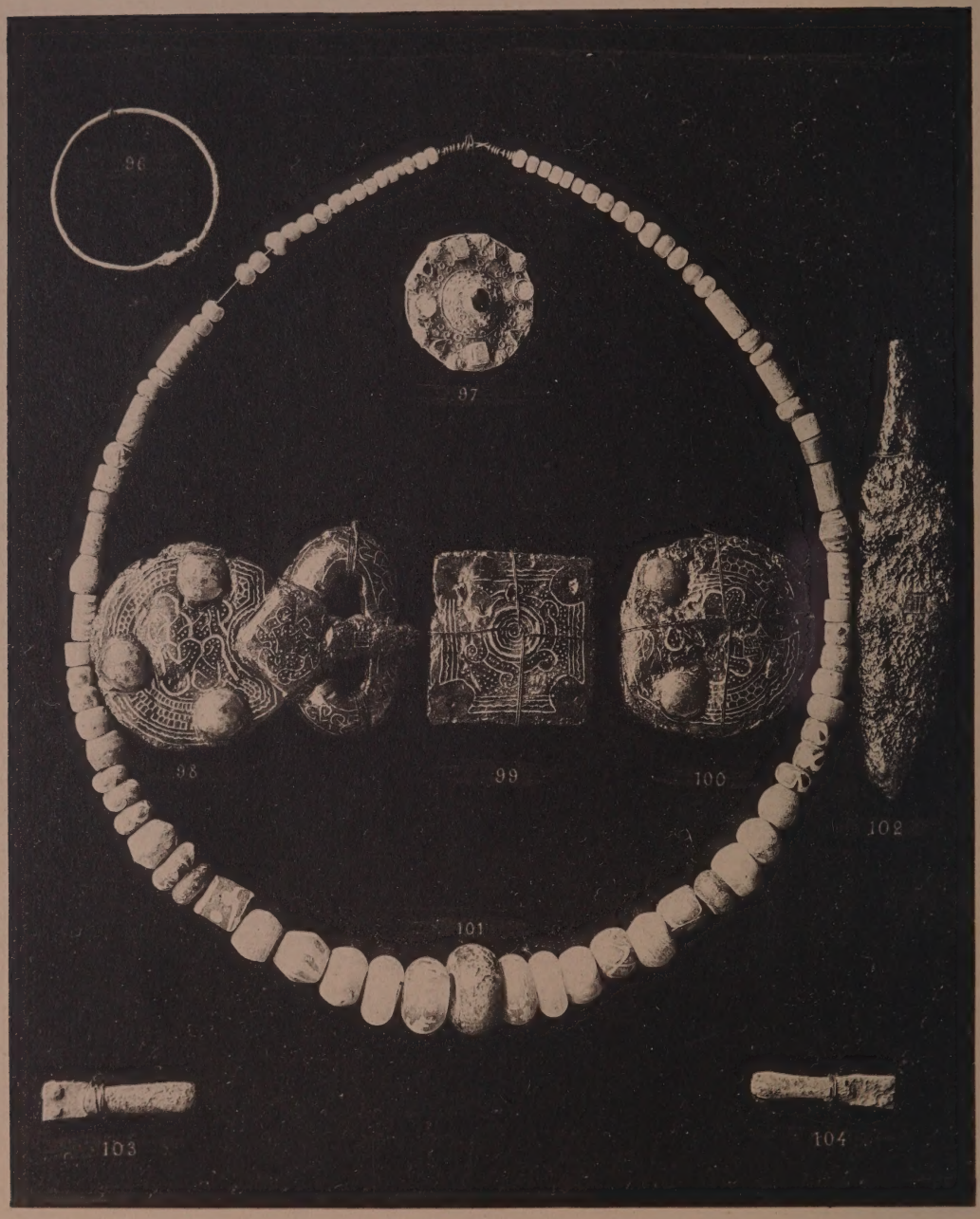
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PLATE VII

96. A plain bronze ear-ring in the shape of a thin wire hoop.

97. Bronze coated with gold. A flat circular fibula with a central umbo, studded with a piece of red paste and surrounded by eight bosses, also studded with paste. Background decorated with ringlets in laid-on gold wire.

98-99-100. An iron belt-buckle in three parts (buckle, square plaque, rounded plaque) inlaid with silver niello studded with round gilt bosses.

101. A necklace of about 80 paste beads of various shapes, sizes and colours.

102. A short iron knife or dagger.

103-104. Two narrow bronze ferrets, which doubtless originally were coupled with small bronze buckles.

PLATE VIII

105-106. A pair of large hoop-shaped bronze ear-rings, closing with a hook and eye; round the ends are wound long pieces of thin bronze wire.

107. A circular silver fibula, with a central umbo, inlaid with a Maltese cross in paste. Round the rim are six inlaid paste ornaments. The background is decorated with laid-on silver wire.

108. A bronze finger-ring.

109. A bronze finger-ring, with a flat bezzle, incised with indistinct ornaments.

110. A plain bronze finger-ring.

111. Iron inlaid with gold niello. The fittings of a belt, *viz.* a central square plaque and two elongated triangular plaques.

112. A necklace of about eighty beads, chiefly paste, but including two pear-shaped amethysts.

113. A short iron knife or dagger.

114. A sea-shell.

115. A one-edged bone comb with a thick curved back.

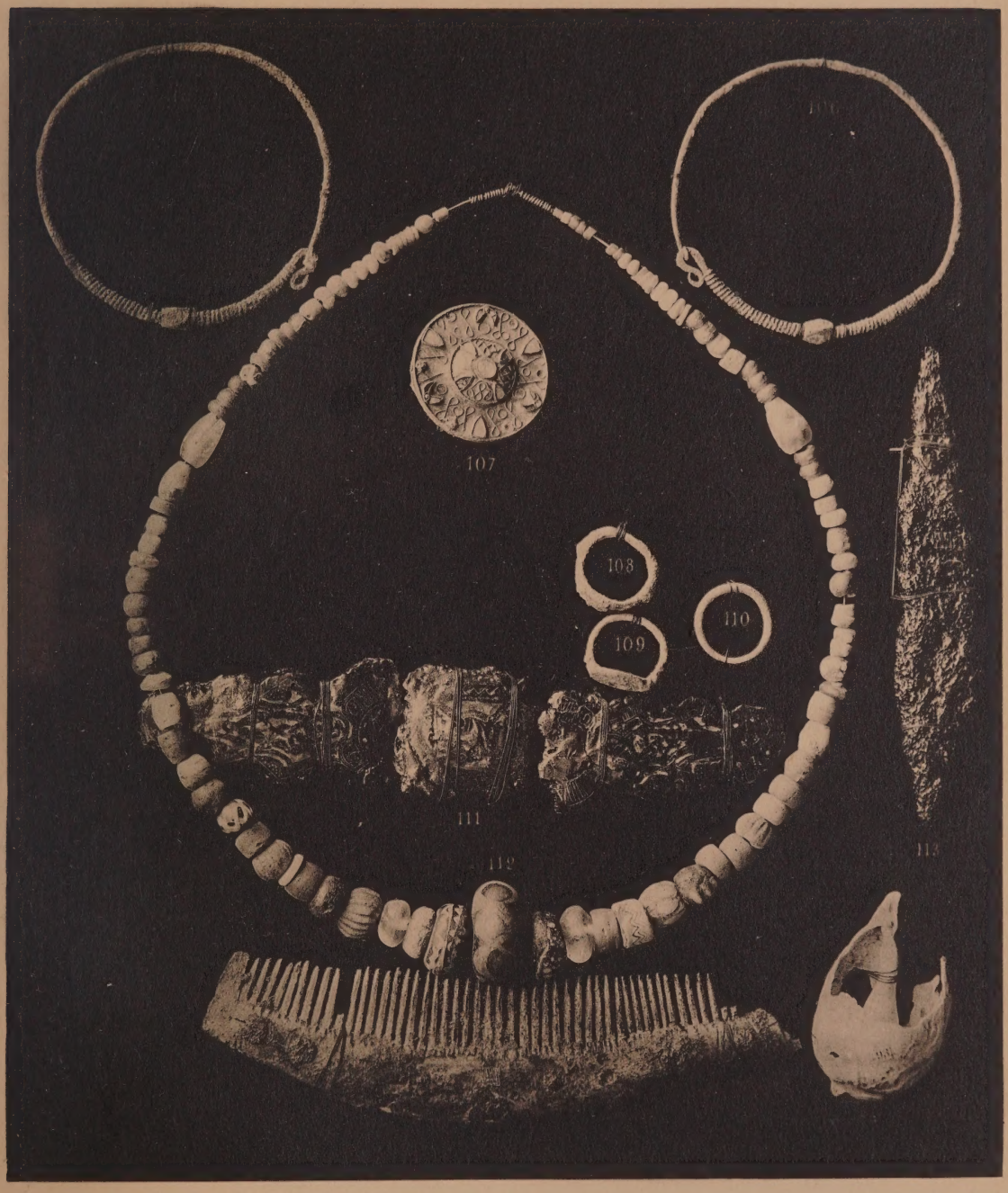
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PLATE IX

116. A long bronze hairpin with a central knob and flat spatulated head.

117. A small bronze ear-ring with the usual knob, hook and eye.

118. Bronze coated with gold. A large flat circular fibula (Diameter $0^{m},063$). In the centre a cloisonné rosette in green paste. Round the rim fifteen pieces of paste of various shapes and sizes. On the background, laid-on spirals in gold wire.

119. A bronze finger-ring with a plain circular bezzle.

120. A handsome iron buckle with the accompanying plaque, delicately inlaid with elegant entrelacs in gold niello.

121. A necklace of about 80 paste beads, chiefly small.

122. A short iron knife or dagger.

123. A one-edged bone comb with an elegant curved back.

PLATE X

124. A gilt bronze hairpin with a spherical head and a central knob.

125-126. A pair of large hoop-shaped bronze ear-rings.

127. Bronze coated with gold. A flat circular fibula with a central umbo in green paste surrounded by six red paste bosses. Background decorated with laid-on ornaments in gold wire.

128. Part of a bead necklace to which are attached five golden disks, one with repoussé *entrelacs*, the others with laid-on ringlets in gold wire.

129. A rectangular bronze buckle, with incised ornaments (a fantastical animal).

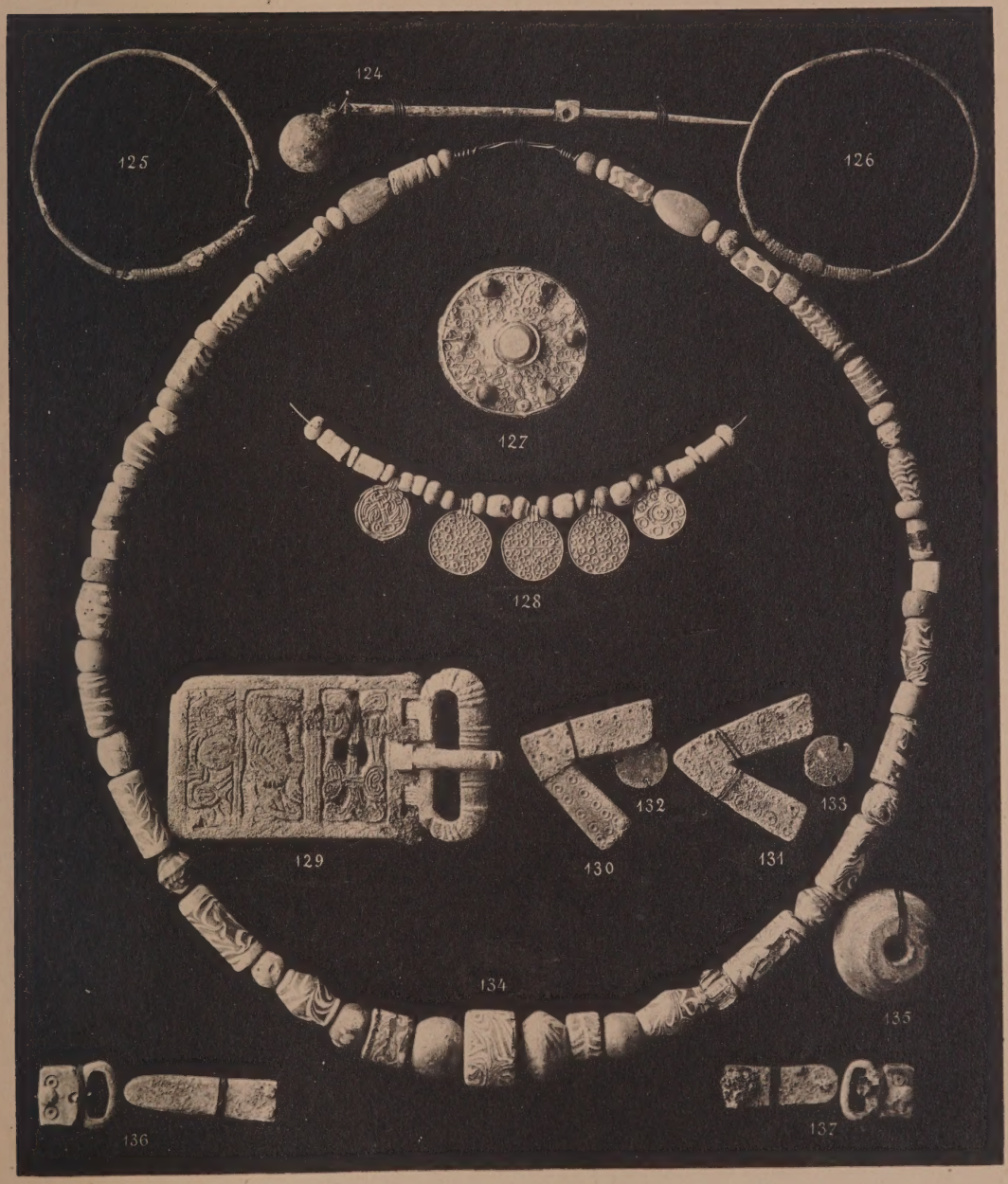
130-131. Two V-shaped bronze plaques from the fittings of a belt.

132-133. Two small circular metal studs from the fittings of the same belt.

134. A necklace of about 80 paste beads of various sizes, shapes and colours.

135. A terra-cotta (?) spindle-whorl.

136-137. A pair of small bronze buckles with their ferrets.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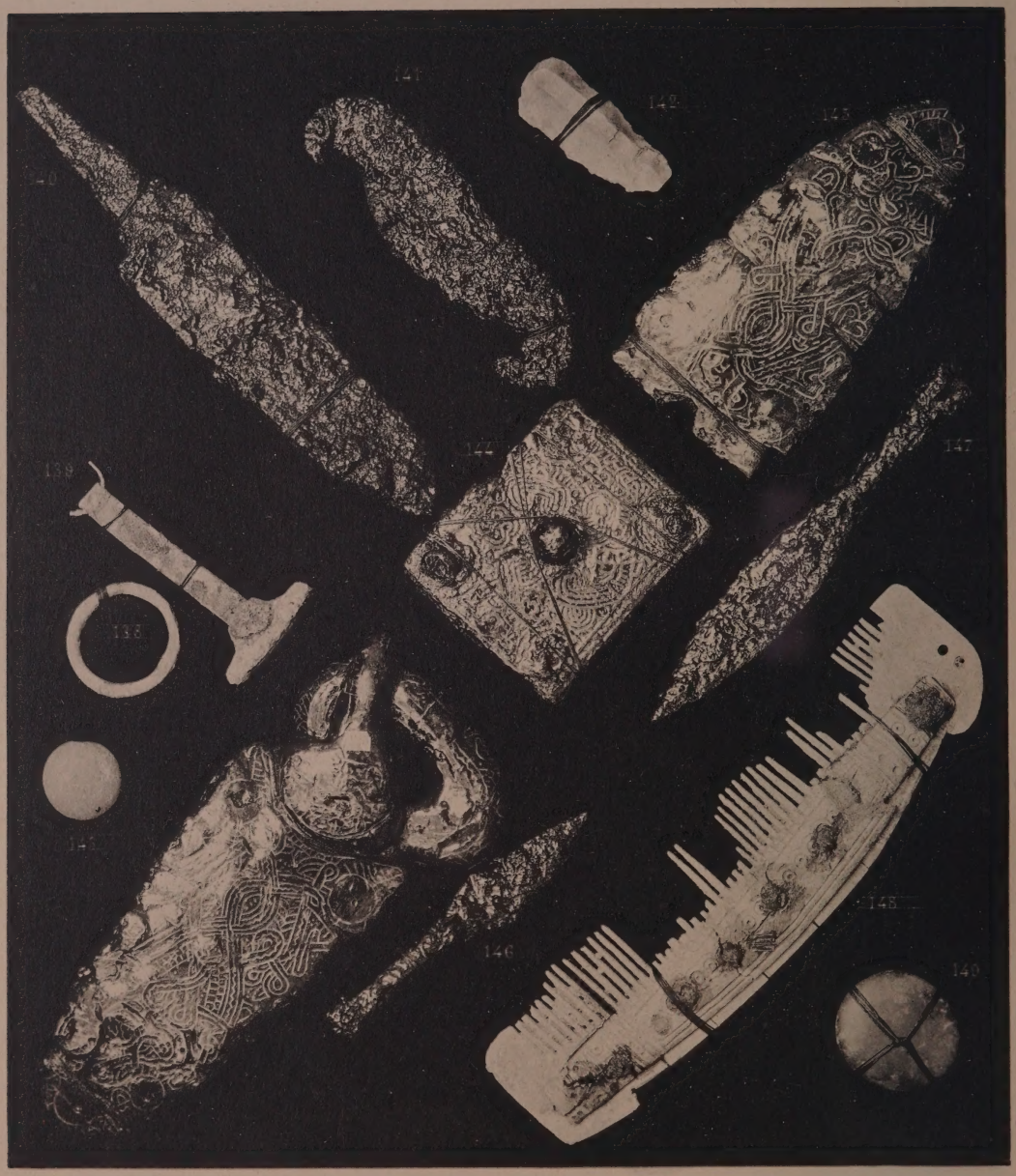

PLATE XI

138. A plain bronze ring.

138 A. A flat counter in blue paste.

139. A pair of bronze tweezers formerly attached to a ring.

140. A broad iron knife.

141. The iron *fermoir* of a purse.

142. A prehistoric flint scraper of the so-called Mousterian type. Probably not of the Frankish period.

143-144-145. A large and handsome iron belt-buckle (buckle, square plaque, triangular plaque, with intricate *entrelacs* in gold niello.

146-147. Two small iron spearheads.

148. A handsome one-edged bone comb, with a heavy curved back.

149. A round flat pebble, probably of no archaeological importance.

PLATE XII

150-151-152. Three rectangular bronze plaques with a central aperture, doubtless part of the fittings of a belt.

153-154. A small bronze buckle with its ferret.

155. A plain flat bronze ring.

156. A flat oval black pebble perhaps used as a palette for preparing paint.

157. A plain massive bronze ring.

158. A small hollow bronze boss.

159-160. Two pyramidal hollow bronze bosses, stamped with small circles.

161-162-163. A fine and large iron belt-buckle in three parts (buckle, square plaque, triangular plaque) decorated with gilt niello entrelacs and with round gilt bosses.

164, 166. A pair of iron javelin-heads.

165. An elongated pebble perhaps used for pounding colours on n. 156.

167-168-169. An elongated bronze buckle in three parts: buckle, ferret and triangular plaque.

170. A pair of bronze tweezers.

171. A bronze buckle with its ferret, similar to nn. 167-168.

172. A prehistoric flint scraper, doubtless not of the Frankish period.

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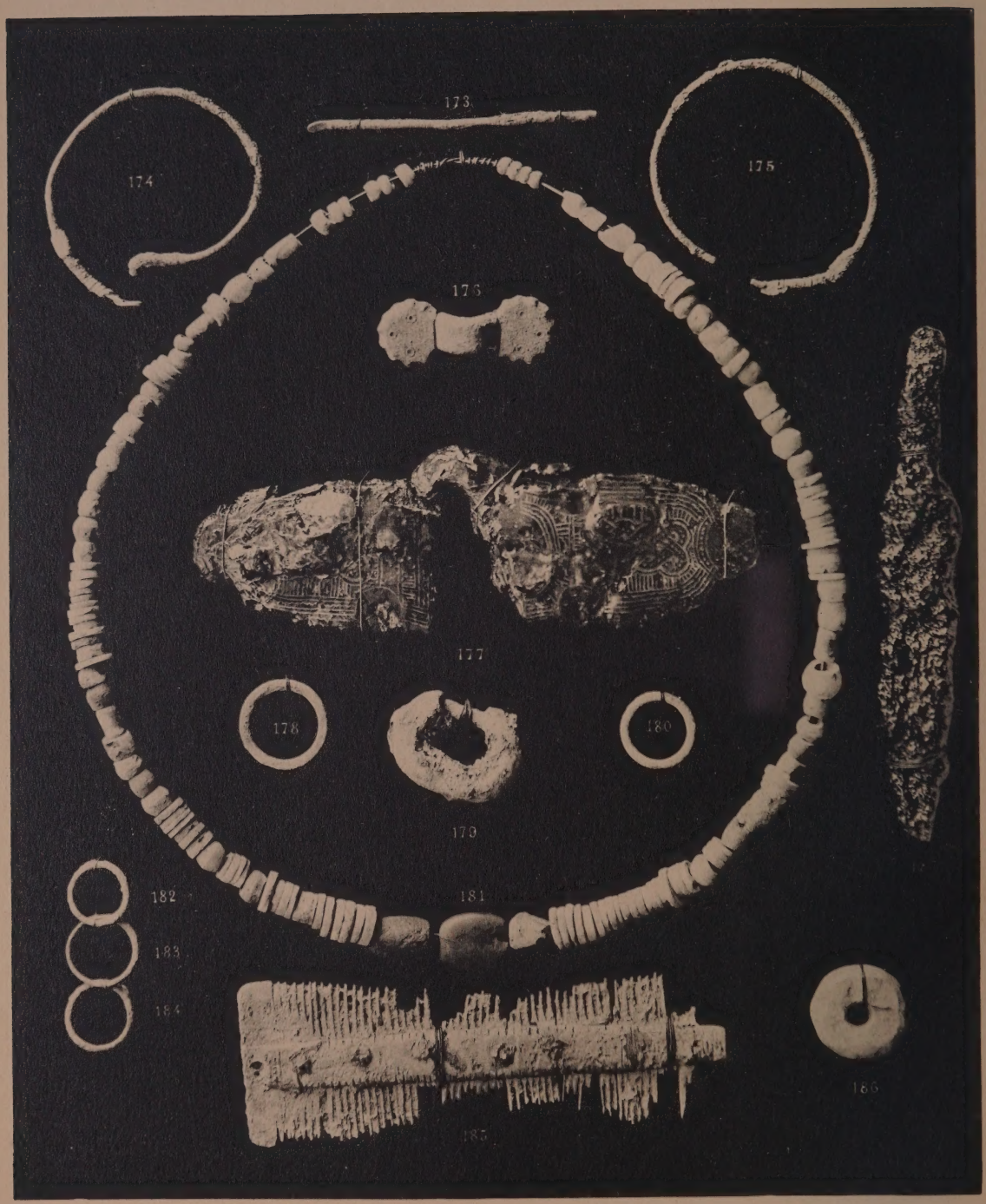
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PLATE XIII

173. A bronze hairpin with a spatulated head.

174-175. A pair of large hoop-shaped bronze ear-rings.

176. A flat bronze fibula : two rosettes joined by a massive hoop. Cf. *Merovingian catalogue* p. 26 n. 134.

177. An iron buckle with its plaque; inlaid with interlaced lines in gold niello.

178, 180. Two plain bronze rings.

179. A massive bronze oval loop, from a buckle.

181. A necklace of about 80 plain beads.

182-184. Three small plain bronze rings.

185. A double-edged bone comb.

186. A flat stone spindle-whorl.

187. An iron dagger or knife.

PLATE XIV

188. A pebble of no archaeological interest.

189. A small iron javelin head.

190. An iron *fermoir* of a purse.

191. A small iron knife with a curved scimitar-shaped blade.

192. A pair of bronze tweezers.

193-194-195. A large iron buckle in three parts: buckle, square plaque, triangular plaque. Inlaid with gold niello *entrelacs*.

196. A pebble of no archaeological interest.

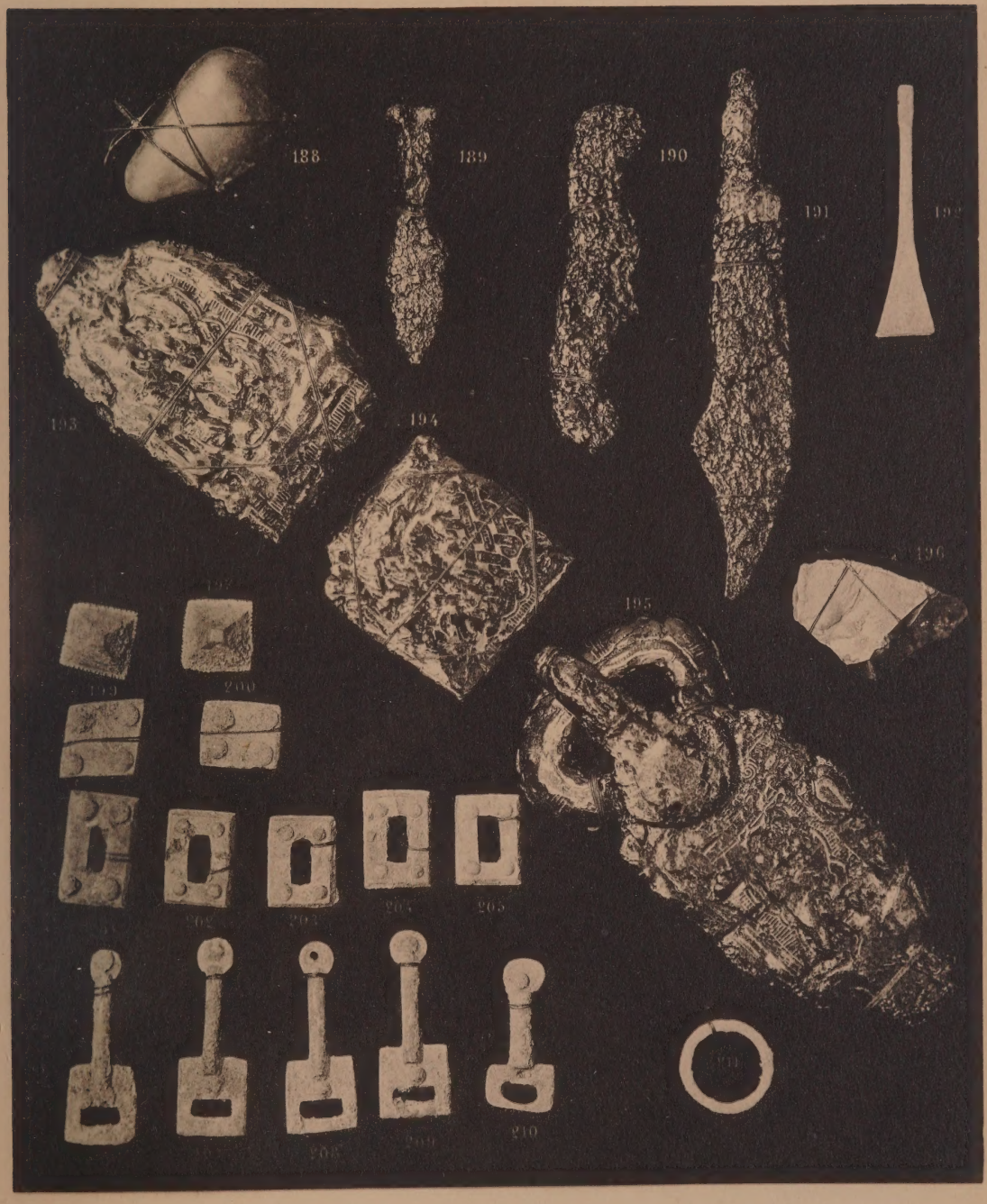
197-198. Two hollow pyramidal bronze bosses.

199-200. Two square or lozenge-shaped plaques (from the fittings of a belt ?).

201-205. Five rectangular bronzes plaques, with central apertures.

206-210. Five corresponding bronze plaques, also with apertures and attached to short bronze rods with flat ends.

211. A plain bronze ring.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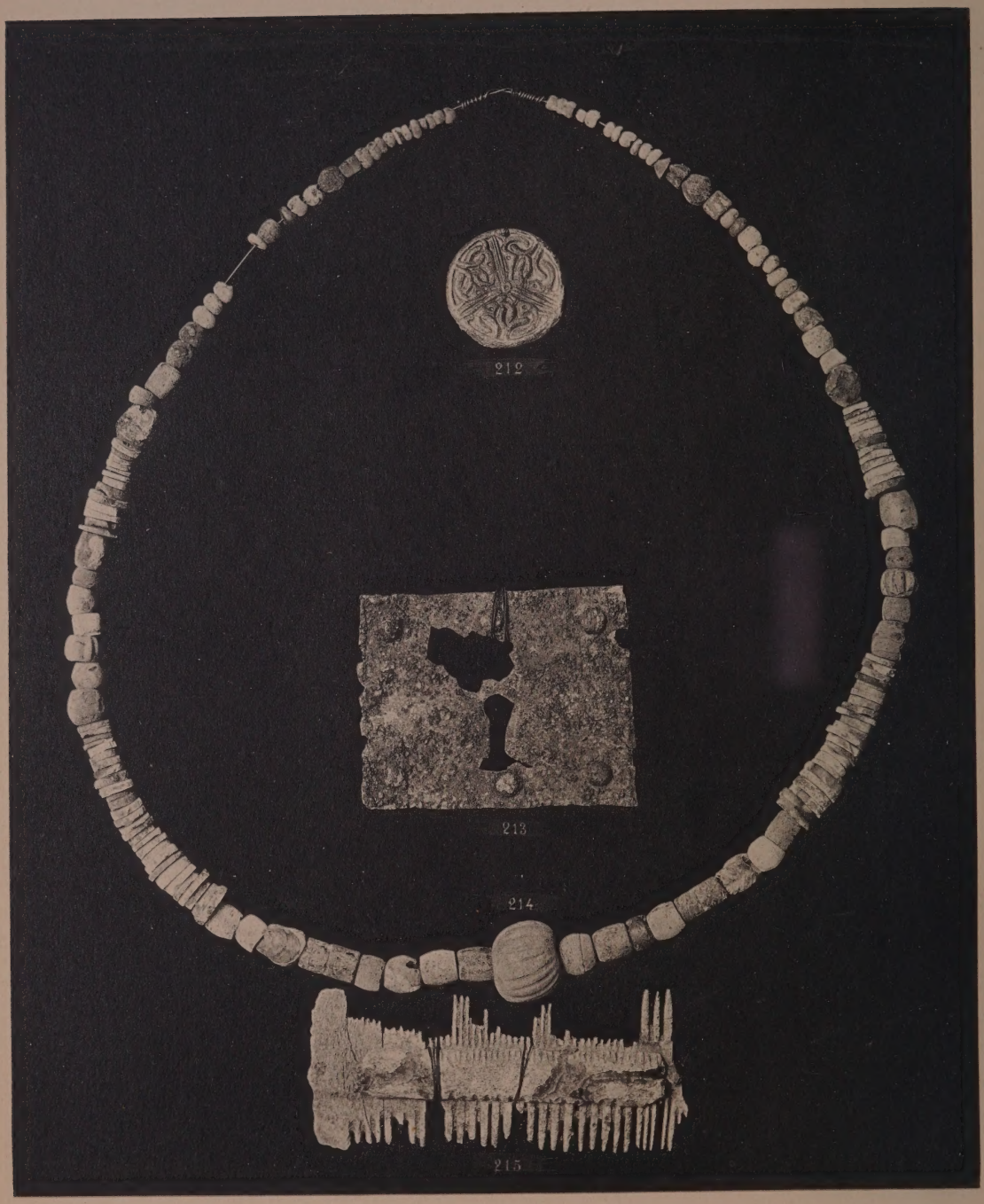
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PLATE XV

212. A flat bronze disk (Diameter 0m033) decorated with incised ornaments and hollowed out behind.

213. A rectangular bronze plaque, pierced with a keyhole and formerly part of the fittings of a casket.

214. A necklace of about 100 plain beads.

215. A double-edged bone comb of the usual shape.

PLATE XVI

216. A flat spatulated bronze hairpin.

217. A flat circular cloisonné silver fibula with two zones of red paste, alternating, in the central zone, with hollow triangular gilt apertures.

218. A bronze finger-ring with a flat bezzle bearing an incised monogram.

219. A small rectangular bronze plaque with a central aperture.

220. A square openwork bronze châtelaine-plaque.

221. A bronze ferret.

222. A necklace of about 80 paste and glass beads of various shapes, sizes and colours.

223. A double-edged bone comb.

224. An iron knife or dagger with part of the handle still attached.

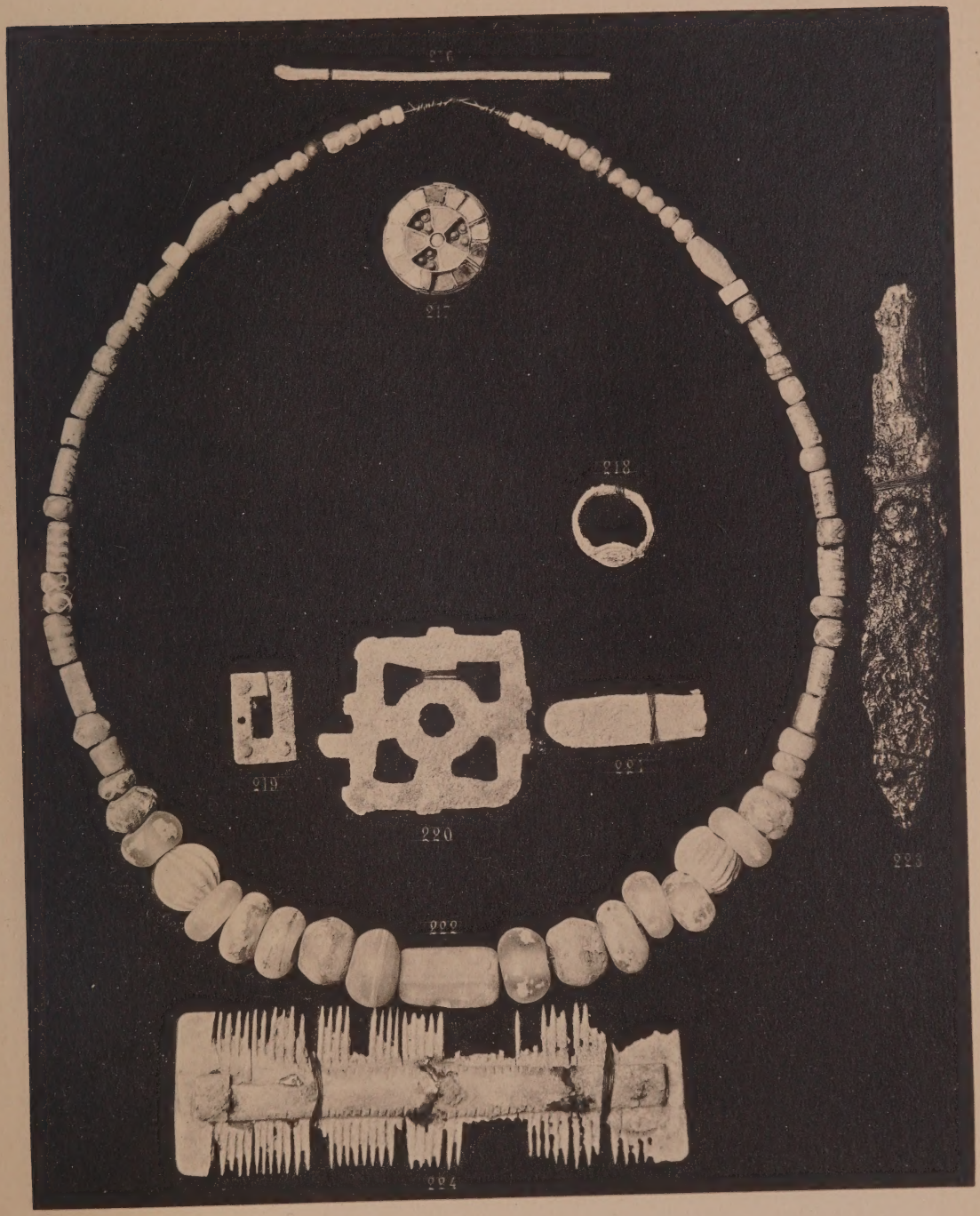
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PLATE XVII

225, 227. Two small rectangular metal plaques from the fittings of a belt.

226. A small double-edged bone comb.

228-229. Two triangular iron plaques, inlaid with gold niello. From a belt-buckle.

230 The iron *fermoir* of a purse.

231. A necklace of about 40 beads in stone, paste and terra-cotta.

232-233. A rectangular bronze ferret with the accompanying bronze buckle.

234. A large plain bronze belt-buckle in two parts: buckle and triangular plaque.

PLATE XVIII

235. A bronze fibula, somewhat similar to n. 176, but flat instead of curved.

236-237. Two large flat bronze ferrets, from a belt.

238. A double-edged bone comb.

239. A circular bronze fibula with a raised rim in which is set a much damaged silver bracteate.

240. A portion of an iron buckle inlaid with gold niello.

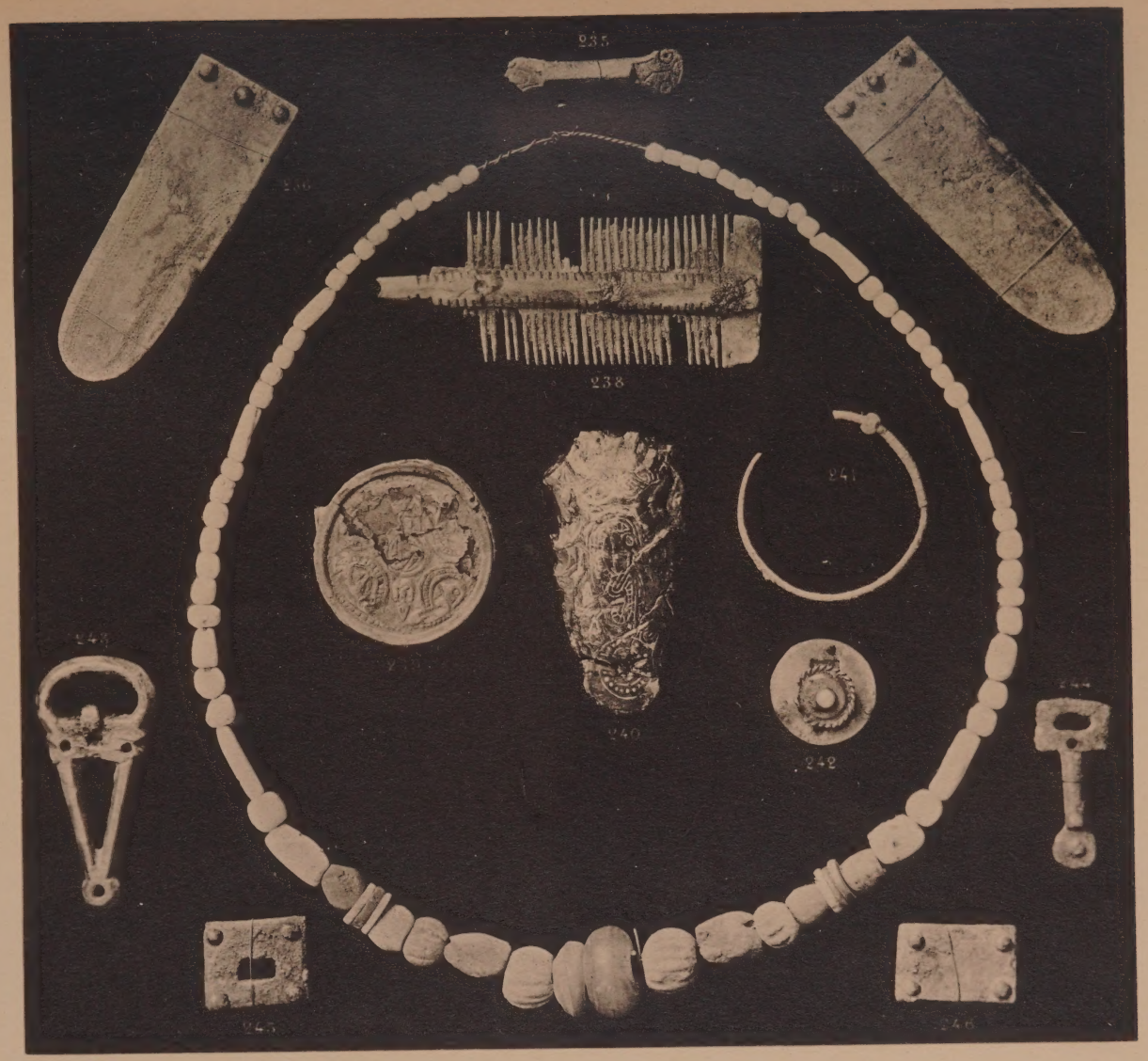
241. A bronze hoop-shaped ear-ring.

242. A circular bronze fibula of which only the central umbo remains.

243. A V-shaped openwork bronze buckle.

244-245. A pair of bronze objects similar to those described supra nn. 201-210.

246. A rectangular bronze plaque similar to nn. 225 and 227.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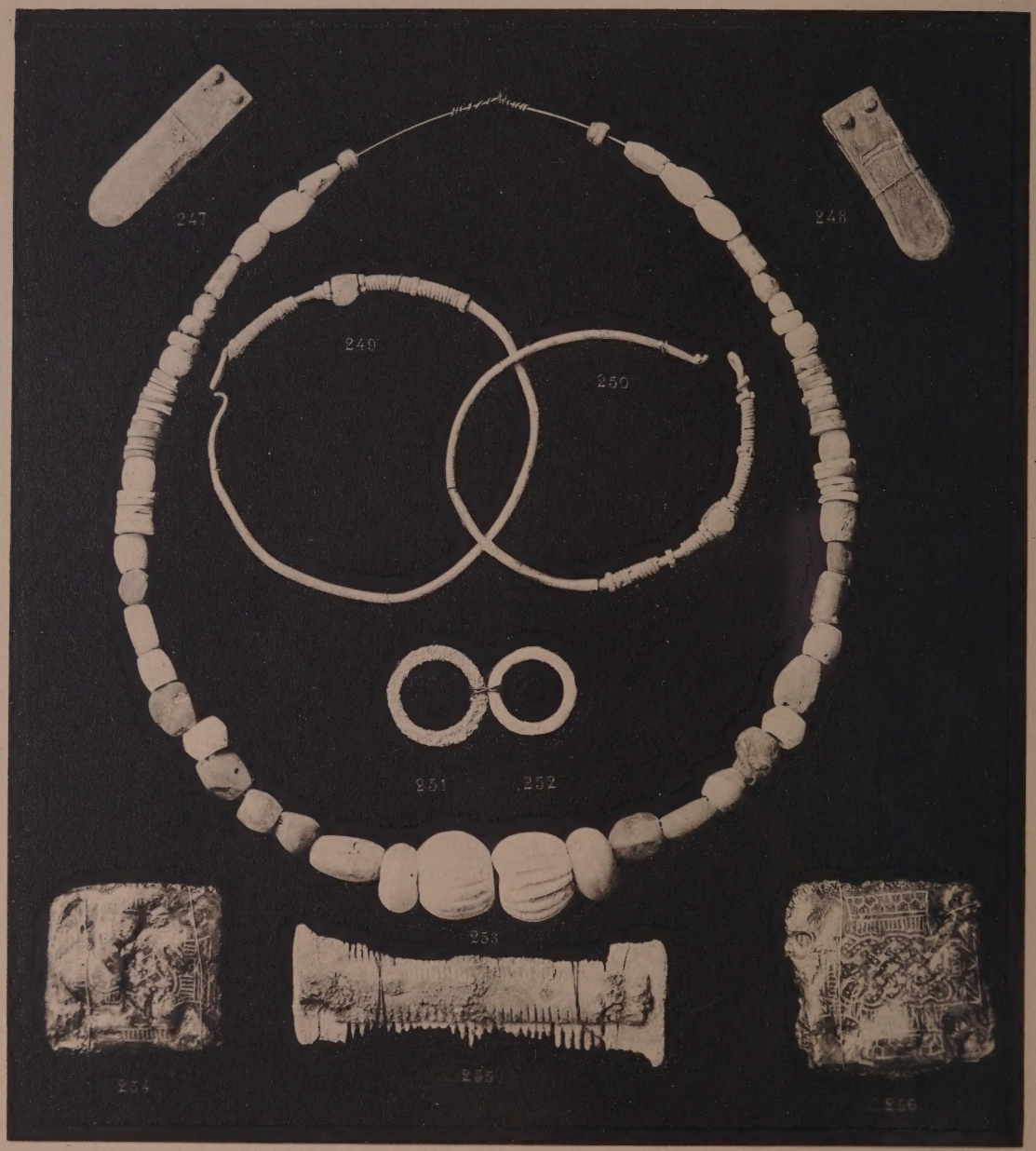
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PLATE XIX

247-248. A pair of bronze ferrets, from a belt.

249-250. A pair of large hoop-shaped silver (?) ear-rings with terminal knobs and portions cased with wound wire.

251-252. Two plain bronze rings.

253. A necklace of about 70 paste beads of various sizes, shapes and colours.

254, 256. Two square iron plaques, from the fittings of a belt, elegantly inlaid with gold niello *entrelacs*.

255. A double-edged bone comb in bad preservation.

PLATE XX

257-258. A pair of hoop-shaped bronze ear-rings with a terminal spherical hollow knob, made of two caps riveted together.

259. A flat circular bronze fibula inlaid with four triangular pieces of greenish paste, forming a Maltese cross.

260. A pair of plain bronze tweezers.

261. A bronze finger ring decorated with parallel lines.

262-263. A small iron buckle, with its plaque, inlaid with gold niello.

264. A necklace of about 80 paste beads of various shapes, sizes and colours.

265. An iron key.

266. A terre-cotta spindle-whorl.

267. A double-edged bone comb.

268. A large cowrie-shell.

269. A short iron knife or dagger.

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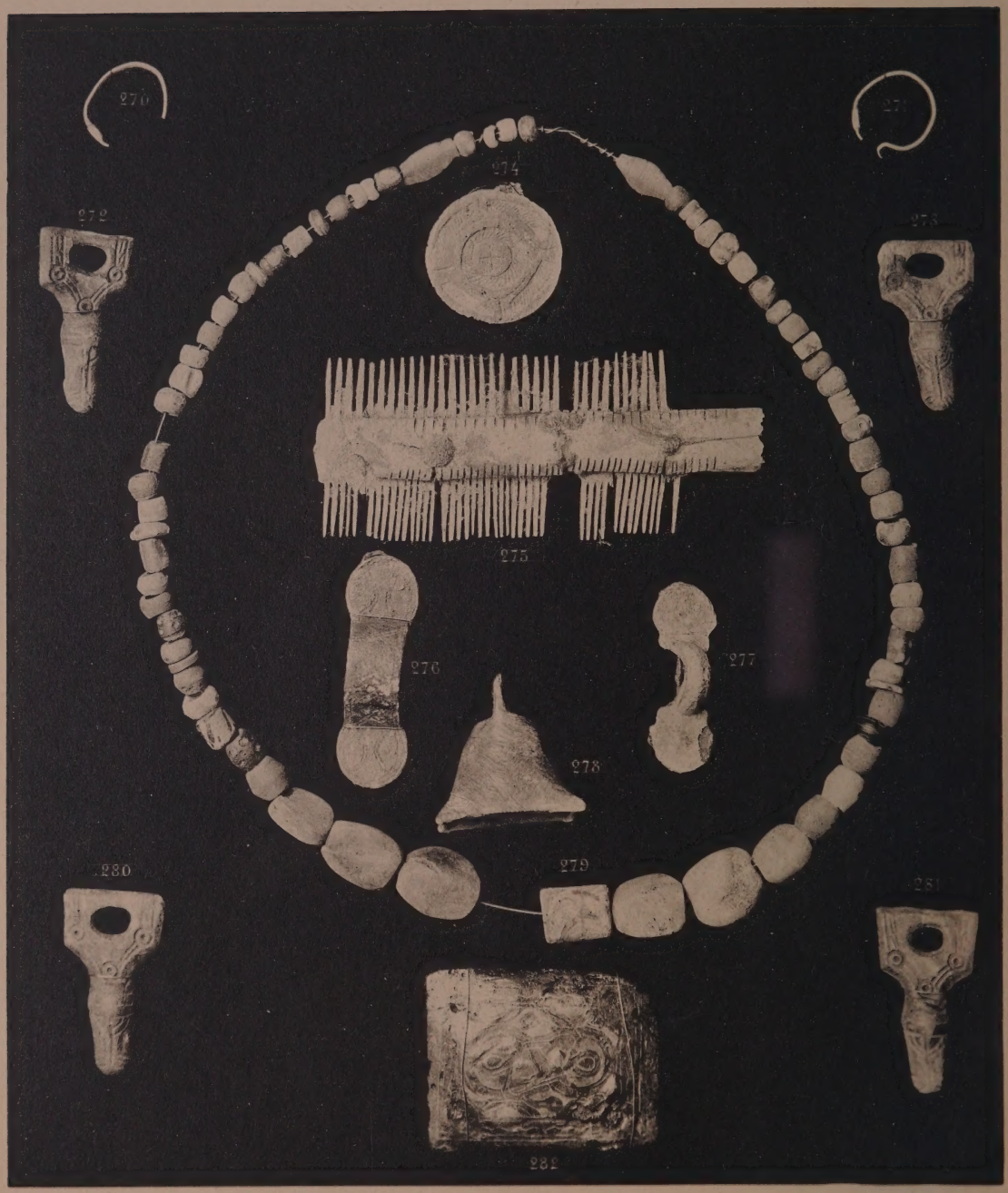
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PLATE XXI

270-271. Two small bronze hoop-shaped ear-rings.

272, 273, 280, 281. Four small bronze objects similar to nn. 206-210, consisting of a short rod terminating in a rectangular plaque with an oval aperture. On the back of the rod two rivets. The surface is decorated with incised lines and stamped circles.

274. A flat circular bronze fibula, with a rough incised decoration of parallel lines.

275. A double-edged bone comb.

276-277. Two bronze fibulae similar to n. 176 : an arched hoop joining two circular flat disks.

278. A square pyramidal bronze bell, terminating at the top in a suspension ring.

279. A necklace of about 70 stone or paste beads of various shapes, sizes and colours.

282. A square iron plaque, part of the fittings of a belt. Inlaid with *entrelacs* in silver niello.

PLATE XXII

283-284. Two plain bronze ferrets.

285. A flat circular cloisonné silver fibula inlaid with twelve radiating pieces of red paste.

286. An iron belt-buckle with its triangular plaque; inlaid with *entrelacs* in gold and silver niello.

287. A pair of iron scissors.

288. A double-edged bone comb, much damaged.

289. A necklace of about 50 paste and jasper beads of various shapes, sizes and colours.

290. A bronze hairpin with a central knob.

291. A bronze hairpin with a pear-shaped knob at one end and a broad flattened point at the other.

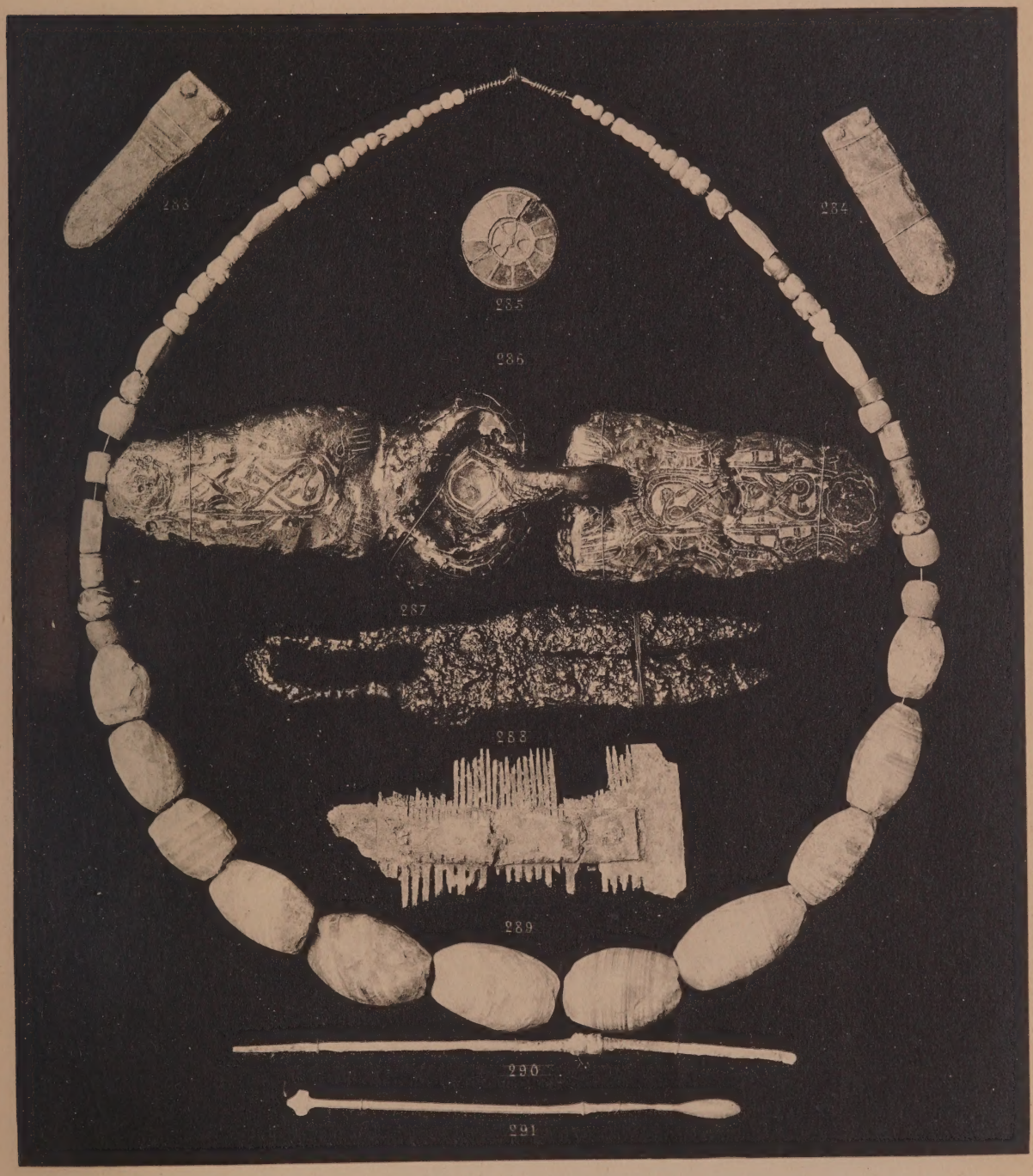
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PLATE XXIV

305, 307. Two bronze fibulae of the same shape as nn. 276-277, 292, 294, etc.

306. A double-edged bone comb, much damaged.

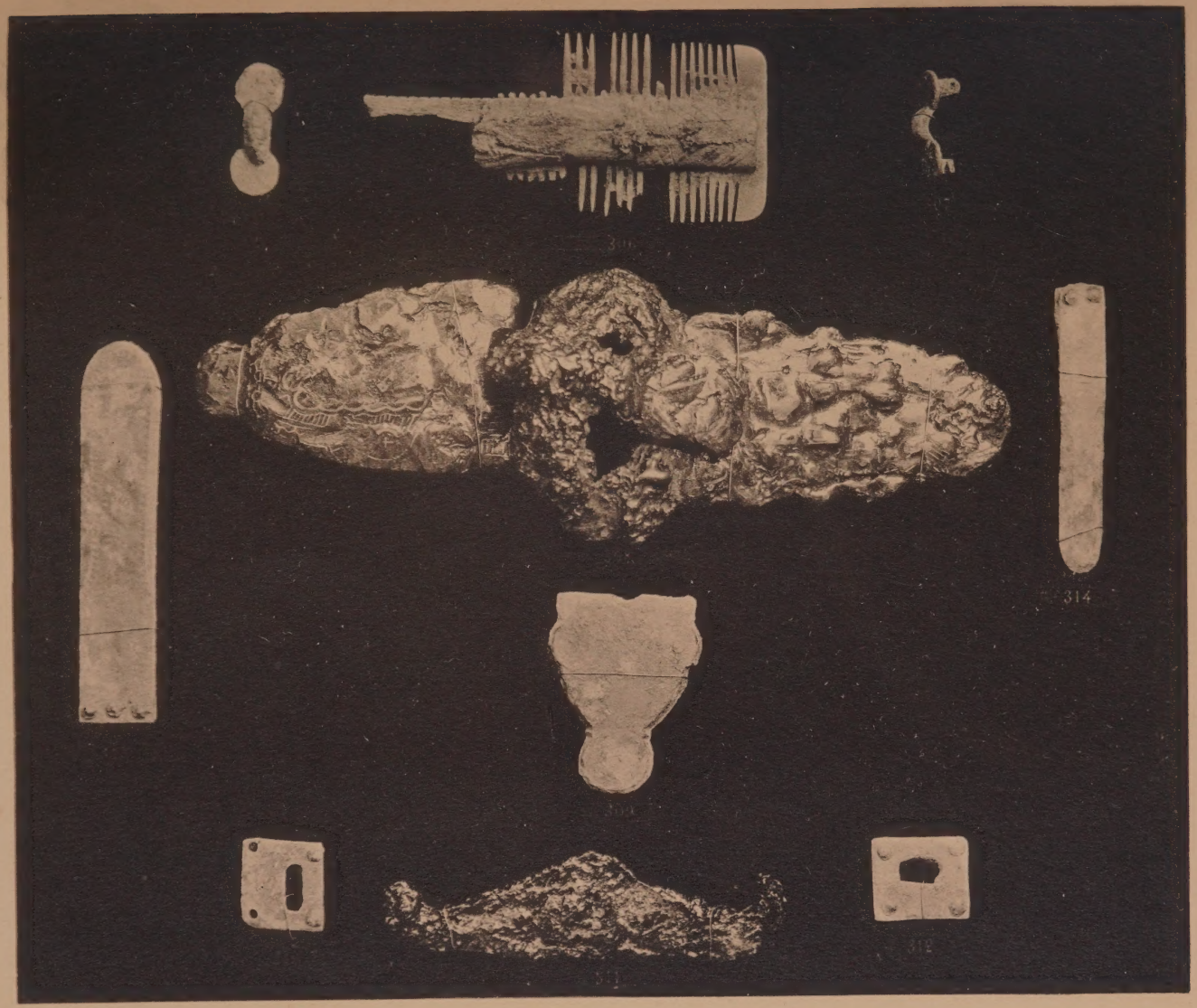
308. An iron belt-buckle with its triangular plaque; inlaid with silver niello *entrelacs*.

309. A triangular bronze plaque, probably from a V-shaped buckle.

310, 312. Two small rectangular bronze plaques with an aperture in the centre.

311. An iron *fermoir* of a purse.

313-314. Two plain bronze ferrets.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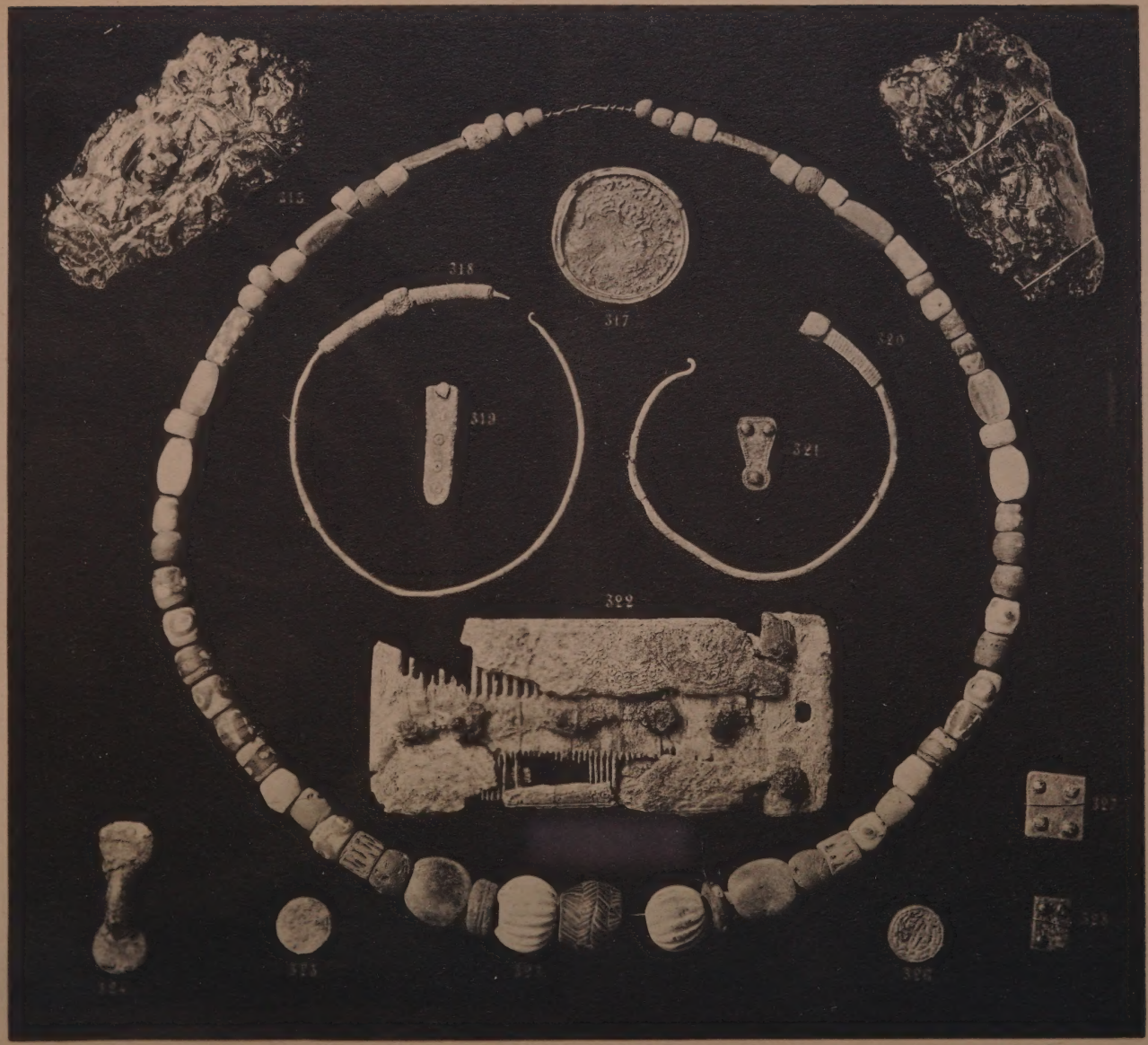
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PLATE XXV

315-316. Two triangular iron plaques from a belt buckle, inlaid with rough silver niello *entrelacs*.

317. A flat circular bronze fibula with a laid-on rim, encircling a much damaged bronze bracteate.

318, 320. A pair of large hoop-shaped silver ear-rings with the usual knob and wound-up wire.

319. A small bronze ferret decorated with stamped circles.

321. A small triangular bronze plaque with three studs; from a buckle.

322. A double-edged bone comb, still cased in its bone sheath decorated with incised patterns.

323. A necklace of about 80 paste beads of various shapes, sizes and colours,

324. A small bronze fibula, similar to nn. 276, 277, etc.

325-326. Two small bronze studs, similar to nn. 300, 304.

327-328. Two small rectangular silvered bronze plaques, similar to nn. 225, 227, etc.

PLATE XXVI

329. A drinking-glass of conical shape.

330. A tall drinking-glass on a foot.

331. A short drinking-glass of conical shape.

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PLATE XXVII

332. A small glass vase with a narrow neck and conical body, decorated with a laid-on glass spiral.

333. A broad-necked glass pot, decorated with laid-on glass ribs.

334. A low glass cup with a widely opened rim and a rounded bottom.

335. A broad-necked glass pot with a low broad body, decorated with ribs and spirals in laid-on glass.

336-339. Four low glass cups, similar to n. 334.

PLATE XXVIII

340-347. Eight glass vases of various sizes but all of the same shape: a cylinder, slightly broader at the tod and swelling out again at the bottom into a kind of flat bulb.

PLATE XXIX

348-352. Five long iron swords, two of which (nn. 348, 349) have still preserved the metal portions of the handles.

PLATE XXX

353-355. Three short and broad swords of the species known as *scramasax* still cased in their sheaths of which only the bronze fittings remain, as may be seen from the accompanying plate.

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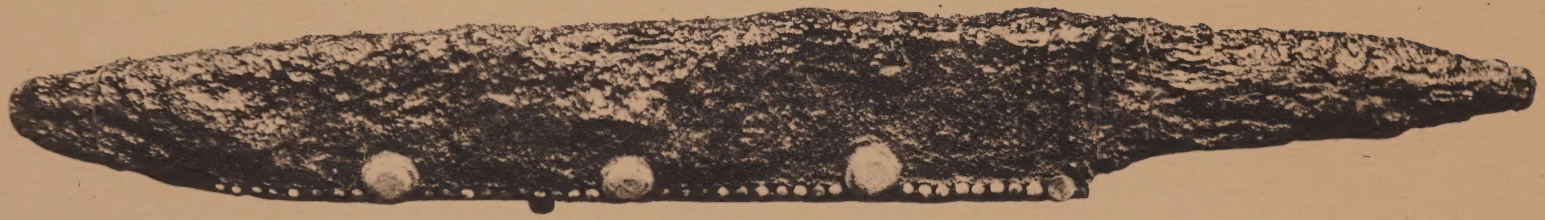

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Phototypie Berthaud, Paris

PLATE XXXI

356-358. Three iron shield umbos consisting in hemispherical caps with a broad flattened rim.

359. An iron spearhead.

PLATE XXXII

360-362. Three iron battle-axes of various shapes.

The following objects, recently added to the collection, have not been photographed as they are nearly all duplicates of those described and figured above.

363-364. Two long iron swords.

365-382. Eighteen short broad iron swords (scramasax). N. 377 still retains the bronze fittings of the original scabbard.

383-384. Two broad iron knives or daggers.

385-392. Eight iron spearheads of various sizes.

393. An iron battle-axe similar to n. 360.

394. An iron knife or dagger.

395-397. Three iron hatchets.

398-399. Two small iron double-headed pick-axes.

400. A flat iron chisel.

401-409. Nine glass cups similar to nn. 336-339.

410. A small glass vase similar to nn. 340-347.

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